

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to include annexes to the international application PCT/FR00/01015, published in the International Preliminary Examination Report for that application, and to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3-13, 15-19, 21, 26-29, 31-34, 37, 39, 41, 43, and 46.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Marked-up Copy".

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

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3. The case as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that the partially precut, upper connecting line (44") of the first side wall of the case with the lid is situated on the lid.

4. The case as claimed in [either of claims 1 and 2,] claim 1, characterized in that the partially precut, upper connecting line (7, 44) of the first side wall of the case with the lid is situated on said first wall (6, 43) so as to leave an upper fascia (26) attached to the lid following tearing-off.

5. The case as claimed in [either of claims 1 and 2,] claim 1, characterized in that the partially precut, upper connecting line (44') of the first transverse side wall of the case with the lid coincides with the edge of the upper face of the lid.

6. The case as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that it comprises means (7') for grasping the first side wall of the case, comprising a handle constituted by a recess centered on the upper connecting line (7) of said wall.

7. The case as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that the partially precut portion(s) (46) and/or gluing points belong to the second transverse side wall (42) of the case, opposite to the tear-off, first transverse side wall (43).

8. The case as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 6,] claim 1, characterized in that the case comprises at least two partially precut portions (16, 17, 66; 120, 120'; 156'; 345; 346; 416) or gluing points respectively situated at some place on the longitudinal side walls of the case.

9. The case (1, 60) as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that the lid is imbricated in the tray.

10. The case as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that the partially precut portion(s) (16, 17; 66) belong to the tray.

11. The case as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that the partially precut portion(s) (16, 17; 46; 66) are precut according to an open line.

12. The case as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 10,] claim 1, characterized in that the partially precut section(s) of leaves are cut according to a closed line.

13. The case as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that the first shape (13, 31, 62) comprises a series of three leaves, namely a central leaf (14, 32, 63) forming the bottom of the tray laterally joined by first fold lines (33) to two side leaves (15, 34, 64) forming, at least in part, the longitudinal side walls of said tray, said series comprising at least one transverse flap (5, 70) situated on one side of said leaves to which it is joined by at least one partially precut, second fold line (9, 9', 38, 71) perpendicular to the first fold lines, said transverse flap (5, 70) forming, at least in part, the first transverse side wall of the tray.

15. The case as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that the second shape comprises three panels (41, 42, 43; 74, 75), namely a rectangular central panel (41, 74) forming the upper face of the lid of the case laterally joined by third fold lines (42', 44') to two side panels (42, 43; 75) forming, at least in part, the side walls of the case, joined together with the first shape respectively by said lateral, partially precut portion(s) (46), or said gluing points, on the one hand, and by gluing lines, on the other hand.

16. The case as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that the second shape (73) comprises two sets of side flaps (76, 77, 78, 79) situated at some place on said panels, to which they are joined by fourth fold lines situated facing said second fold lines (71, 72) of the first shape.

17. The case as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 14,] claim 1, characterized in that the second shape (21) comprises at least four panels (22) respectively mutually joined by fourth fold lines (23, 23') parallel to the second fold lines (9') of the first shape, and an end gluing tongue (22'), the four panels comprising a set of flaps (24, 25) situated on the side opposite to the first shape (13).

18. The case as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that each leaf (32, 34; 63, 64) of the first shape comprises a transverse flap, namely a central flap (70) joined to the central leaf and forming a partially precut bottom portion, and two side flaps joined to the side leaves and glued on said central flap.

19. The case as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 12,] claim 1, characterized in that each shape comprises a series of four primary leaves (104, 104', 104'', 104'''; 110, 111, 112, 113; 146, 147, 148, 149; 160, 162, 164, 166) terminated by a fixing tongue (140; 130; 153; 168), said primary leaves and said tongue being mutually joined by mutually parallel first fold lines (105, 105'; 114, 114'; 145, 145'; 169, 169'), directly or by means of secondary leaves (150, 151, 152, 153; 161, 163, 165, 167), and an assembly (108, 115; 155, 170) of first side flaps, disposed on one side of said series of primary leaves and joined to the latter by second fold lines (109, 109'; 116, 116'; 154, 154'; 171, 171') perpendicular to said first fold lines and intended to form, at least partially, the bottom of the tray, on the one hand, and the top of the upper section of the case, on the other hand.

21. The case as claimed in [any one of claims 19 and 20,] claim 19, characterized in that the primary leaves (146, 147, 148, 149; 160, 162, 164, 66) are mutually separated by secondary leaves (150, 151, 152, 153; 161, 163, 165, 167) to form an eight-sided case, with cut corners.

26. The assembly of shapes as claimed in [any one of claims 22 to 25,] claim 22, characterized in that the precut connecting line(s) which are to correspond to the connecting line of the first side wall of the case, once formed with the lid, are situated on the lid.

27. The assembly of shapes as claimed in [any one of claims 22 to 25,] claim 22, characterized in that the precut upper connecting line which is to correspond to the connecting line of the first side wall of the case, once formed, coincides with the upper edge of the case, once formed.

28. The assembly of shapes as claimed in [any one of claims 22 to 27,] claim 22, characterized in that the precut leaf portion(s) (120; 156, 156') are cut according to a closed line.

29. The assembly of shapes as claimed in [any one of claims 22 to 27,] claim 22, characterized in that the precut leaf portion(s) are cut according to an open line.

31. The assembly of shapes as claimed in [any one of claims 22 to 30,] claim 22, characterized in that the primary leaves (146, 147, 148, 149; 160, 162, 164, 166) are mutually separated by secondary leaves (150, 151, 152, 153; 161, 163, 165, 167) to form an eight-sided case, with cut corners.

32. The assembly of shapes as claimed in [any one of claims 22 to 31,] claim 22, characterized in that the concretization is effected by winding the two shapes which have previously been glued together and joined together by at least one of said first portions around a mass of predetermined dimensions.

33. The assembly of shapes (130, 142) as claimed in [any one of claims 22 to 32,] claim 22, characterized in that the precut portions run obliquely from the junctions between first and second fold lines toward the outside of the first shape.

34. The assembly of shapes as claimed in [any one of claims 22 to 33,] claim 22, characterized in that the precut portions belong to the first shape.

37. The assembly of shapes as claimed in [either of claims 35 and 36,] claim 35, characterized in that the central panel of the second shape comprises a central flap in the extension of the said panel provided with two pre-cut lid portions and the side panels of the second shape each comprise a side flap fit to be glued respectively on the said pre-cut lid portions.

39. The assembly as claimed in [any one of claims 35 to 38,] claim 35, characterized in that the lateral pre-cut portions run obliquely from the junction between first and second fold lines towards the outside of the first shape.

41. A process for the realization of a packing case as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 21,] claim 1, characterized in that:

- the first and second shapes are fixed together solely by means of at least one pre-cut portion and by means of panels and/or of flaps respectively joined to the rest of the shape to which they belong by partially pre-cut connecting lines, this in order to form the packing case, the display tray of which can be manually separated from the upper section of the case by simple traction of one of the shapes towards the outside of the case close to the said pre-cut portion.

43. A machine (150) for the realization of a packing case according to [any one of claims 1 to 21,] claim 1, characterized in that the said machine comprises

- means (162) for coating the said pre-cut portions (16, 17, 46, 66, 120, 120', 156, 156', 266, 345, 346, 416) with glue,

- means (152, 154, 156) for positioning the shapes one upon the other to allow a first of the pre-cut portions to be glued onto the other shape, the fold lines of the one of the shapes being placed relative to the fold lines of the other shape to allow winding around a mass of determined dimensions,

- application means (157) for fixing the said first pre-cut portion onto the other shape by gluing,

- means for fixing together a flap or wall of a shape on a flap or wall of the other shape, the said flaps or walls being joined to the rest of their respective shape by partially pre-cut connecting lines,

- and means (160, 164, 165) for forming the box by winding and folding-down of the shapes thus joined together around a mass (160) of determined dimensions, for fixing solely by gluing.46.

46. The machine as claimed in [any one of claims 43 to 45,] claim 43, characterized in that it comprises two feed magazines (152, 154) disposed at some place on the machine for forming of the shapes.